

we know what they are saying about our involvement in Iraq. We know what they are saying about our standing in the world community. We know that. It is going to take a long time to rebuild it. The longer we persist in this unconscionable, unwinnable quagmire war in Iraq, the longer it is going to take us to get our standing back in the world community. Try we must. We need to bring this war to its conclusion.

It is not losing the war. People say: We can't lose it. I wasn't in the Senate, but I was in the House of Representatives when the Vietnam war finally came to a close. We heard the same arguments then, that we can't afford to lose, that the whole of Southeast Asia would be in flames, communism would take over the Philippines, communism would take over Indonesia. We heard it time after time. Guess what. None of it happened. And you look back now and you go down here to the Vietnam Memorial wall and you read those names and you think about their sacrifice, families that were left behind, children, loved ones. You wonder what for. What for? They served their country proudly. They did their duty. But you wonder in the end, what was it for?

I think, as we look back on this war in Iraq years from now, the thousands of Americans who have lost their lives, we will ask that same question: What for? Why? War is not the answer. Escalation is not the answer. We need to bring our troops home.

Those on the other side are saying we ought to talk about cutting off funding. That is going to come. We are going to have a supplemental appropriations bill. It will be here probably in the next couple months. I, for one, am going to do everything I can to make sure we have some kind of amendment on that bill which will limit the President's ability to spend the taxpayers' money on the war in Iraq. After all, the Constitution gives us the power of the purse strings, not the President. If we want to say: Mr. President, you can spend the money to redeploy troops out of Iraq and to protect them while they are being deployed, you can do that, but you can't spend any of that money to send any more troops there and put them in harm's way and have them going door to door in Baghdad and have them be shot at by snipers, we will have that opportunity when the supplemental appropriations bill comes before us.

Right now is time for us as a Senate to stand up and say whether we approve of the escalation or disapprove. Republican Senators on the other side of the aisle won't even give us that opportunity. I hope they hear from more families like the letters I just read. Maybe we will get that opportunity. It is time for us to quit shirking our responsibility, time for us to stand up and say whether we are for the escalation. I, for one, am not. Maybe others are for it. I think that is what we ought to debate, and that is what we ought to vote on.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

FIRST LIEUTENANT JACOB FRITZ

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I rise to express my sympathy over the loss of U.S. Army 1LT Jacob Fritz of Nebraska. Lieutenant Fritz was killed near Karbala, Iraq on January 20. He was 25 years old.

Lieutenant Fritz was raised on his family's farm near Verdon, NE. From a young age, Lieutenant Fritz knew he wanted to be a leader. After graduating from Dawson-Verdon High School in 2000, he followed through on this goal. I had the honor of nominating Lieutenant Fritz to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He graduated from the Academy in 2005. His brother, Daniel Fritz, 22, followed in his footsteps and is currently in his third year at West Point. Like his brother Jake, I had the privilege of nominating Dan to West Point.

Lieutenant Fritz was leading a unit of more than 30 soldiers in Iraq since October. Lieutenant Fritz described his mission as a liaison between Iraqi police and the U.S. Army. He said the work was challenging, but rewarding.

Lieutenant Fritz was buried on January 31 with full military honors in a church cemetery 4 miles from his family home near Verdon, NE. Family and friends paid their final respects in a moving service that reminded all of the courage, commitment, and sacrifice of soldiers like Lieutenant Fritz. As his childhood friend Air Force 1LT Brett Cooper remembered, a life of service to his country followed by a retirement to the small town life that he loved was all that Lieutenant Fritz wanted. We're proud of Lieutenant Fritz's service to our country as well as the service of thousands of brave Americans who are currently serving in Iraq.

In addition to his brother Dan, Lieutenant Fritz is survived by his parents Lyle and Noala and his younger brother Ethan.

I ask my colleagues to join me and all Americans in honoring 1LT Jacob Fritz.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNITION OF G. MARTIN WAGNER

• Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, today I honor G. Martin Wagner—a dedicated public servant who, on January 31, 2007, retired from Federal service after 31 years.

Marty Wagner has had an exemplary career working for the Federal Government. Far removed from the apocryphal "faceless bureaucrat" that so many of those who wrongly belittle our Federal workforce often refer to, Marty should serve as an example to us all in how to best serve the people of this great country. Marty was a leader and a doer who accomplished much over the past three decades, and leaves the Federal Government a far better place than how he found it.

Over his 31 years in the Federal civil service, Marty earned many honors and awards for his efforts to make the Federal Government a better place to work for all Federal employees. His service has also resulted in a Federal Government that is more caring and responsive to the needs of the American public.

Marty grew up in Tucson, AZ. In his youth, he played guitar and sang folk songs in old time "hootenannies." He has a deep, recognizable voice, which would have served him well as a professional musician or radio persona. Fortunately for us, his career took a different path and Marty became a dedicated, hard-working Federal employee—serving in a number of agencies and departments over the past 31 years.

Most of us who know and have worked with Mr. Wagner over the years, associate him with his almost two decades of service with the General Services Administration, GSA, where he has been an innovative leader and promoter of initiatives for improved and more accessible information technology for Federal workers and the public alike. Most recently, Marty has served as Deputy Commissioner of the new Federal Acquisition Service, FAS. Prior to accepting this position, Marty also served as Acting Commissioner and Acting Deputy Commissioner of FAS. However, Marty was also a leader before his days at GSA, and I call to my colleagues attention just one of his major accomplishments over his Federal career.

Early on, Marty was an economic analyst at the Environmental Protection Agency. His outstanding work in the environmental arena proved to be invaluable to the quality of the air we breathe. In addressing the economic impact of pending EPA regulations, Marty was instrumental in producing the findings that resulted in the first requirement to remove lead from gasoline. I believe Marty could have retired at this point and have served his country well but, fortunately, this was just the first step in a long and distinguished career with the Federal Government.

G. Martin Wagner was a masterful manager and leader of innovative change within the Federal Government. The results of his untiring efforts over the past 30 years are evident in numerous Federal programs, resulting in a much more effective and efficient Federal Government.